HIS MAJESTIES GRACIOUS MESSAGES FOR PEACE,

Sent to the Two Houſes of Parliament at *Weſtminſter*, and to the Commiſſioners of the Parliament of *Scotland* the 17. and 24. of *January* 1645.

In Anſwer to Theirs of the 13. of *January* hereunto Prefixed.

OXFORD,

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May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WEE *Your humble and Loyall Subjects of both Kingdomes, have received Your Letters of the* 26 *and* 29 *of* December *laſt; unto which we humbly returne this Anſwer.*

That there hath been no delay on our parts, but what was neceſſary in a buſineſſe of ſo great conſequence, as is expreſſed in our former Letter to Your Majeſty.

Concerning the Perſonall Treaty deſired by Your Majeſty, *There having been ſo much innocent Bloud of Your good Subjects ſhed in this Warre, by Your* Majeſties *Commands and Commiſſions, Iriſh Rebels brought over into both Kingdomes, and endeavours to bring over more into both of them, as alſo Forces from Forreign parts; Your* Majeſty *being in Armes in theſe parts, and the* Prince *in the head of an Army in the* Weſt, *divers Townes made Garriſons, and kept in hoſtility by Your* Majeſty *againſt the Parliament of* England: *There being alſo Forces in* Scotland *againſt that Parliament and Kingdome by Your* Majeſties *Commiſſion: The Warre in*

Ireland *fomented and prolonged by Your* Majeſty, *whereby the three Kingdomes are brought neare to utter ruine and deſtruction. We conceive, That untill Satisfaction and ſecurity be firſt given to both Your Kingdomes, Your* Majeſties *comming hither cannot be convenient, nor by us aſſented unto. Neither can we apprehend it a meanes conducing to Peace, That Your* Majeſty *ſhould come to Your Parliament for a few dayes, with any thoughts of leaving it; eſpecially with intentions of returning to hoſtility againſt it. And we doe obſerve, That Your* Majeſty *deſires the Ingagement, not only of the Parliaments, but of the Lord Major, Aldermen, Common-Counceil, and Militia of the City of* London, *the chiefe Commanders of Sir* Thomas Fairfax *his Army, and thoſe of the* Scots *Army, which is againſt the Priviledges and honour of the Parliaments, thoſe being joyned with them, who are Subject and Subordinate to their authority.*

That which Your Majeſty, *againſt the freedome of the Parliaments inferces in both Your Letters with many earneſt expreſſions, as if in no other way then that propounded by Your* Majeſty, *the Peace of Your Kingdomes could be eſtabliſhed; Your* Majeſty *may pleaſe to remember, That in our laſt Letter, we did Declare, That Propoſitions from both Kingdomes were ſpeedily to be ſent to Your* Majeſty, *which We conceive to be the only way for the attaining a happy and well grounded Peace, and Your* Majeſties *Aſſent unto thoſe Propoſitions, will be an effectuall meanes for giving ſatisfaction and ſecurity to Your Kingdomes; will aſſure a firme Union between the two Kingdoms, as much deſired by each for other as for themſelves; And ſettle Religion and ſecure the Peace of the*

Kingdom of Scotland, *whereof neither is ſo much as mentioned in Your* Majeſties *Letters.*

And in proceeding according to theſe juſt and neceſſary grounds for the putting an end to the bleeding Calamities of theſe Nations, Your Majeſty *may have the Glory to be a Principall Inſtrument in ſo happy a Worke, and we (however miſinterpreted) ſhall approve our ſelves to God and the world to be reall and ſincere in ſeeking a ſafe and well grounded Peace.*

Weſtminſter, 13. *Jan.* 1645.

Grey of *Warke*, Speaker of the Houſe of Peers, *pro tempore.*

William Lenthall, Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

Signed in the name and by warrant of the Commiſſioners for the Parliament of *Scotland.*

BALMERINOTH.

For Your MAJESTY.

Three Meſſages His MAJESTY had ſent, and received no Anſwer; At laſt came this: no wonder 'twas three weeks expected, ſince 'tis evidently beyond all Expectation. Wherein They ſo outdoe not only others, but Themſelves; that this Anſwer may ſeeme a Contrivance in their names on purpoſe to render them odious to Poſterity. Their Trumpeter who brought it, ſtayed but one day in *Oxford*, and next morning was diſmiſſ'd with this Gracious Meſſage.

CHARLES R.

THIS Majesty thinks not fit now, to Answer those Aspersions which are returned as Arguments for His not admittance to *Westminster* for a Personall Treaty; because it would inforce a stile nor suitable to his ends, it being the Peace of His miserable Kingdomes. Yet thus much He cannot but say to those who have sent him this answer, That if they had considered what they have done themselves, in occasioning the shedding of so much innocent Blood, by with-drawing themselves from their Duty to Him, in a time when He had granted so much to His Subjects; and in violating the knowne Lawes of the Kingdome; to draw an Exorbitant power to themselves over their fellow Subjects (to say no more) to do as they have done, they could not have given such a false Character of His Majesties Actions. Wherefore His Majesty must now remember them, that having some houres before His receiving of their last paper of the 13. of *January*, sent another Message to them of the 15. wherein by divers particulars He enlargeth Himselfe, to shew the reality of his Endeavours for Peace, by His desired Personall Treaty, (which He still conceives to be the likelyest way to attaine that blessed end,) He thinks fit by this Message, to call for an Answer to that, and indeed to all His former; for certainly no rationall man can think, their last Paper can be any Answer to His former demands,

mands, the ſcope of it being, That becauſe there is a War, therefore there ſhould be no Treaty for Peace. And is it poſſible to expect that the Propoſitions mentioned, ſhould be the ground of a laſting Peace, when the Perſons that ſend them will not endure to heare their own King ſpeak? But, what ever the ſucceſſe hath been of His Majeſties former Meſſages, or how ſmall ſoever His hopes are of a better, (conſidering the high ſtraine of thoſe who deale with His Majeſty) yet, He will neither want Fatherly bowells to His Subjects in generall, nor will He forget that God hath appoynted Him for their King with whom He Treats. Wherefore He now demandes a ſpeedy Anſwer to His laſt and former Meſſages. *Given at the Court at* Oxford *this* 17th *of* January, 1645.

For the Speaker of the Houſe of Peers pro tempore, *To be Communicated to the two Houſes of Parliament at* Weſtminſter, *and the Commiſſioners of the Parliament of* Scotland.

To this Meſſage, (according to their cuſtome) They return'd no Anſwer; poſſibly conceiving their laſt (of January 13th) a ſufficient Refuſall. It was ſo, to any not reſolv'd againſt all Provocations; Therefore His Majeſty expected a week longer, and then (finding no manner of Returne) ſent unto them this ſeventh Gracious Meſſage.

CHARLES

CHARLES R.

THE procuring Peace to these Kingdomes by Treaty, is so much desired by His Majesty, that no unjust Aspersions whatsoever, or any other discouragements, shall make Him desist from doing His Endeavours therein, untill He shall see it altogether impossible; And therefore hath thought fitting, so farre only to make Reply to that Paper, or Answer, which He hath received of the 13th of this instant *January*, as may take away those Objections which are made against His Majesties comming to *Westminster*: expecting still an Answer to His Messages of the 15th and 17th, which He hopes by this time, have begotten better thoughts and resolutions in the Members of both Houses.

And first therefore, Whereas in the said last Paper it is objected (as an Impediment to His Majesties Personall Treaty,) *that much innocent Bloud hath been shed in this Warre by His Majesties Commissions, &c.* He will not now dispute, it being apparent to all the World, by whom all this Bloud hath been spilt, but rather presseth, that there should be no more; and (to that end only) He hath desired this Personall Treaty, as judging it the most immediate meanes, to abolish so many horrid Confusions in all His Kingdomes; And it is no Argument to say, *There shall be no such Personall Treaty, because there have been Warres*; It beng a strong inducement to have such a Treaty, to put an end to the Warre.

Secondly,

Secondly, *That there should be no such Personall Treaty, because some of His Irish subjects have repaired to His assistance*: It seemes an Argument altogether as strange as the other, as alwayes urging, That there should be no Physick administred because the Party is sick. And in this particular it hath been often observed unto them, That those whom they call *Irish* (who have so expressed their Loyalty to their Soveraigne,) were indeed (for the most part) such English Protestants, as had been formerly sent into *Ireland* by the two Houses, and impossibilitated to stay there any longer, by the neglect of those, that sent them thither, who should there have provided better for them. And for any Forreigne Forces, it is too apparent, that Their Armies have swarmed with them, when His Majesty hath had very few, or none.

And whereas the Third Impediment, it is alledged, *That the Prince is in the head of an Army in the West*; *That there are divers Garrisons still kept in His Majesties Obedience*; *and that there are Forces in Scotland*; It must be as much confess'd, as that there is yet no Peace. And therefore it is desired, That by such a Personall Treaty, all these Impediments may be removed: And it is not here amisse to put them in mind, how long since His Majesty did presse a Disbanding of all Forces on both sides, the refusing whereof hath been the cause of this Objection.

And whereas Exception is taken, That there is a time limited in the Proposition for His Majesties Personall Treaty, thereupon inferring, *That He should again intend to make Warre*; His Majesty protesteth, that He seekes this Treaty, to avoyd future

Hostility, and procure a lasting Peace: And if He can meet with like Inclinations to Peace, in those He desires to Treat with, He will bring such Affections and Resolutions in Himselfe, as shall end all these unhappy bloudy Differences.

As for those Ingagements, which His Majesty hath desired for His Security; whosoever will call to mind the particular occasions, that inforced His Majesty to leave His Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, will judge His demand therein very reasonable, and necessary for His safety. But He no way conceives, how the Lord Major, Aldermen, Common-Councell and *Militia* of *London*, are either *Subject or Subordinate to that Authority*, as is alleadged: as knowing neither Law nor Practice for it: And if the two Armies be, He beleives it is more then can be paralell'd by any former times in this Kingdome: Nor can His Majesty understand, how His seeking of Personall Security, can be any breach of Priviledge, it being likelyer to be infringed, by hindering His Majesty from comming freely to His two Houses.

As for the Objection, That His Majesty omitted to mention the setling of Religion, and securing the Peace of His Native Kingdom; His Majesty Declares, That He conceives it was involved in His former, and hath been particularly mentioned in His latter Message of the 15. present. But for their better satisfaction, He againe Expresses; That it was, and ever shall be, both His meaning and Endeavours, in this Treaty desired.

And it seemes to Him very cleare; That there is no way for a finall ending of such Distractions, as now afflict this Kingdom, but either by Treaty, or Conquest;

The

The latter of which, His Majesty hopes none will have the impudence or impiety to wish for: And for the former, If His Personall assistance in it, be not the most likely way, let any reasonable man judge, when by that meanes, not only all unnecessary delaies will be removed, but even the greatest difficulties made easie. And therefore He doth againe earnestly insist upon that Proposition, expecting to receive a better answer upon mature consideration.

And can it be imagined, that any Propositions will be so effectuall, being formed before a Personall Treaty, as such as are framed and propounded upon a full Debate on both sides! Wherefore His Majesty, who is most concerned in the good of His People, and is most desirous to restore Peace and Happinesse to His three Kingdomes, doth againe instantly desire an Answer to His said former Messages, to which He hath hitherto received none. *Given at the Court at* Oxford, *the* 24. *day of* January. 1643.

For the Speaker of the House of Peeres pro tempore, to be Communicated to the two Houses of Parliament at Westminster, *and the Commissioners of the Parliament of* Scotland.

After this, His Majesties Former Trumpet returned without the least syllable of Answer to His Majesty; only a small Paper sent to Sir *Thomas Glenham*, which is but the Transcript of a former Delay sent six weeks before, wherein they acknowledge the *Receipt of His Majesties Letters of the* 13th *and* 17th *instant, that they intend to send an Answer by a Messenger of their owne, in the meane time have sent back the Passe granted to Sir* Peter Killegrew, *behaving no further*

occasion to use it. This looks like a Promise of an Answer hereafter; but When, none must aske, because they are not pleas'd to declare: No, not so much as their old *Convenient Speed*, which (though Indefinite) is here expunged. Let the World testifie what *Humble Subjects* are those, that will speak to their KING but twice in Six weeks, though earnestly sollicited by *seven* Gracious Messages. Three yeares since, an Alderman and other *Londoners* (in name of the whole City) petitioned His Majesty's Returne to *Westminster*; yet now 'tis pronounc'd a *violation of Priviledges* to demand Security from those that offer'd it. They had personall Guards before any Army rais'd, yet deny to guard their Soveraigne, because they have an Army. Nay their Answer sajes, that *His Majesties Letters* (of *Decem.* 26. and 29.) *have not so much as mentioned the setling the Peace of Scotland* — sufficient to amaze all that can read English; for in that of *Decem.* 26. *His Majesty Propounds a Personall Treaty* (they are His Majesties words) *with the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland, upon all matters which may conduce to the restoring Peace and Happinesse to These Kingdoms:* And in the other of *Decem.* 29. His Majesty offers *just Satisfaction for setling a way to pay publique Debts, to the Scots &c.* hoping *none will oppose a lasting Peace to These Nations* (what *Satisfaction* can the *Scots* imagine, but *a lasting Peace* & *Payment of their Debts*?) And after all superscribes those Letters, joyntly to *the two Houses of Parliament at Westminster, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland.* Is here *no mention of the Peace of Scotland?* They give it under their hands, though sure all modest men will wonder to read it. As for *Security*, His Majesty propos'd to put Himselfe on Theirs; 'tis strange they deny to trust Themselves. Nor is it faire to say *Treaties have prov'd dilatory*, since they refus'd to adde *one* to these *Twenty days* at *Uxbridge*; yet now tax His Majesty for offering Them *but fourty*, though themselves have spent *seven weeks* in sending No Answer.

FINIS.